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Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fifth session, part I*

Geneva, 4–8 and 25 and 26 June 2018

* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fifth session, part I, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 4 to 8 and on 25 and 26 June 2018. It will appear in final form, together with the reports on the sixty-fifth session, part II, and the sixty-seventh executive session of the Board, to be held on 13 and 14 December 2018, as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/73/15).

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Contents

		Page
	Introduction	3
I.	Action by the Trade and Development Board on substantive items on its agenda	3
	A. Economic development in Africa	3
	B. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference	4
	C. Other action taken by the Board	6
II.	President's summary	7
	A. Opening plenary meeting and general debate	7
	B. High-level segment	10
	C. Regular segment	13
III.	Procedural and related matters	19
	A. Opening of the session	19
	B. Election of officers	19
	C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session	19
	D. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters	20
	E. Adoption of the report on credentials	21
	F. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board	21
	G. Other business	21
	H. Adoption of the report	21
Annexes		
	I. Agenda for the sixty-fifth session, part I, of the Trade and Development Board	23
	II. Provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh executive session of the Trade and Development Board	25
	III. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Trade and Development Commission	26
	IV. Topic and guiding questions for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy	27
	V. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session, part II, of the Trade and Development Board	28
	VI. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission	29
	VII. Attendance	30

Introduction

The sixty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 4 to 8 and 25 and 26 June 2018. In the course of the session, the Board held 11 plenary meetings, the 1164th to the 1174th.

I. Action by the Trade and Development Board on substantive items on its agenda

A. Economic development in Africa

Agreed conclusions 539 (LXV)

The Trade and Development Board

1. *Welcomes* the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2018: Migration for Structural Transformation*;

2. *Recalls* paragraph 76 (aa) of the Nairobi Maafikiano, "complementing the work of other organizations, continue its research and analysis within its mandate on the impact of migration, including vulnerable migrants, on development and trade capacity, considering its opportunities and challenges";

3. *Recognizes* that safe, orderly and regular intra-African migration is an essential ingredient for deeper regional and continental integration;

4. *Underscores* the importance of safe, orderly and regular intra-African and extra-continental migration for the continent's structural transformation and socioeconomic development, in particular for countries of origin and destination;

5. *Recognizes* the need to address the challenges associated with migration, such as brain drain and the outflow of skilled human resources;

6. *Recognizes* the launch of the Single African Air Transport Market, the signature of the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons and the signature of the framework agreement for the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area;

7. *Takes note* that migration by women is increasingly important in Africa, that women migrants contribute to inclusive growth in both origin and destination countries and that benefits can be enhanced through gender sensitive migration policies that ensure safe and orderly migration, which include educational opportunities;

8. *Recognizes* that migration is associated with growth in labour productivity in destination countries, upskilling opportunities and technology upgrading and that migration has a pro-trade effect; however, there remains a need for reducing regional labour market information asymmetries so that prospective migrants can make more informed job decisions, thus matching skills to growing sectors where they are most needed across the continent;

9. *Regrets* that the estimated 8.9 per cent cost of remittance to Africa is the highest in the world, and calls on UNCTAD and other stakeholders, including money transfer agencies, to explore ways to reduce transaction costs and expand access to financial services to help countries achieve Sustainable Development Goal 8 and Sustainable Development Goal target 10.c, strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and to expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all, and notes the target by 2030, to "reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent";

10. *Observes* that migration to and from Africa has been driven by factors such as historical, geopolitical and economic and calls upon the international community to support Africa in addressing challenges relating to migration;

11. *Recognizes* migration governance and policies at the regional level as stipulated in the African Union's revised Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018–2027) and the recommendations for policymakers and national actors contained therein;

12. *Recognizes* that the development impact of remittances on productive capacity and structural transformation depends on complementary policies, while recalling that remittances cannot be equated to other international financial flows, such as foreign direct investment and official development assistance;

13. *Calls for* the strengthening of good governance and institutional mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels regarding migration, border governance and labour flows, in order to better respond to the needs of migrants as they arise and ensure the added value of migration is captured in effective and sustainable ways;

14. *Recognizes* that youth and young people play an increasingly important role in migration within and from Africa, and emphasizes the need for national, regional and international policies and implementation of respective action to enhance the education, entrepreneurship and employment of youth and young people, in order that they can use their full potential to contribute to inclusive growth in their home countries;

15. *Requests* UNCTAD to continue its research and analysis, within its mandate, on the impact of Africa's migration, including vulnerable migrants, and on development and trade capacity, considering its opportunities and challenges.

1174th plenary meeting
26 June 2018

B. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

Decision 540 (LXV)

The Trade and Development Board,

Recalling the progress made with the Nairobi Maafikiano, adopted at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Reaffirming paragraph 94 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which calls for the revitalization of the existing intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD to better support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the modalities for phase II adopted at the sixty-sixth executive session of the Trade and Development Board,

Recognizing that the Trade and Development Board should strengthen its decision-making and policy function and its governance function,

Recalling the importance of ensuring geographical diversity and gender balance in intergovernmental meetings,

1. *Emphasizes* the importance of member States' engagement in constantly improving the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD;

2. *Stresses* the importance of promoting concrete and actionable outcomes with a development perspective throughout the intergovernmental machinery;

3. *Encourages* the development of stronger links between intergovernmental processes in Geneva and New York, as well as reinforcement of dialogue within the wider United Nations system;

4. *Encourages* an improvement in the communication of deliberations, outcomes and proposals across the intergovernmental machinery;

5. *Recalls* that discussions in the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Board should provide high-level guidance for the work of UNCTAD and, as appropriate, contain agreed conclusions specifically addressing the UNCTAD contribution to the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the broader trade and development agenda; to this end, background documentation for the Trade and Development Board, including the respective flagship publications and outcomes of relevant expert meetings, should contain specific policy recommendations for the consideration of the Board;

6. *Decides* to establish a high-level segment, not exceeding two days, during the annual session of the Trade and Development Board, which should focus on persistent and emerging economic challenges from a development perspective;

7. *Stresses* that the topic of the high-level segment and the agenda of the annual session should be decided in the previous session of the Trade and Development Board and be consistent with the UNCTAD mandate;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation and follow-up of the decisions taken at the Trade and Development Board;

9. *Requests* that the UNCTAD secretariat, in consultation with member States, develop and maintain up to date a four-year, forward-looking and integrated schedule of planned meetings of the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery that includes, where possible, agendas with standing items and agreed topics, consistent with the requirements established by the rules of procedures of the respective bodies, and especially taking into account the quadrennial conference, and the methods of work of the different bodies, without prejudice to additional, supplementary and urgent agenda items;

10. *Decides* to review the proposed terms of reference of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget and to consider them during the October segment of the sixty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board, without prejudging the final decision-making capacity on budget matters by the competent bodies in New York;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of the work of the intergovernmental groups of experts, which include the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy, Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development;

12. *Recognizes* the need to improve the outcomes of the multi-year and single-year expert meetings, including their relevance to the UNCTAD mandate and a greater focus on concrete outcomes, such as recommendations, guidelines and policy tools;

13. *Reaffirms* paragraph 95 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, which determines that expert meetings should be improved by ensuring, through and within all available means, more participation of experts from developing countries, including through the use of innovative methods and technologies;

14. *Calls for* meetings to be webcast, in order to disseminate further the information collated within the multi-year expert meetings and single-year expert meetings and to greatly enhance the impact of decisions and policy recommendations produced by these meetings;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to make sustained efforts to attract contributions, from public and private sources, to the fund that finances the participation of

experts and to inform member States about the availability and disbursement of the resources in the fund, and encourages member States to contribute to the fund;

16. *Reaffirms* the role of the secretariat in supporting the intergovernmental machinery, such as by conducting topic research and providing conference material beforehand in a timely manner;

17. *Requests* the secretariat to report on the progress made towards implementation of this decision during the next regular session of the Trade and Development Board.

1172nd plenary meeting
8 June 2018

C. Other action taken by the Board

Economic development in Africa

1. At the 1174th (closing) plenary meeting of the Trade and Development Board, on 26 June 2018, the Board endorsed the agreed conclusions on agenda item 5 made available in the room as a non-paper (see chapter I, section A, above).

Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries

2. At its 1172nd plenary meeting, on 8 June 2018, the Board took note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/65(1)/6).

Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

3. At its 1171st plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report on the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy, as contained in document TD/B/EDE/2/4, and endorsed the agreed conclusions contained therein.

4. The Board further decided to establish a Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy, in line with the concept note contained in document TD/B/EDE/2/3.

5. The representatives of several regional groups and some delegates welcomed the report and the work of the UNCTAD secretariat, given the increasing importance of electronic commerce (e-commerce) and the digital economy for development. Some regional groups acknowledged changes in the process for preparation of the agreed policy recommendations, recognizing that there was still some room for improvement. One delegate made some recommendations, primarily on procedural matters of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy.

6. One regional group suggested there could be more synergies between the Intergovernmental Group of Experts and UNCTAD E-commerce Week. Another delegate highlighted the need to look further at the impact of restrictions of access to global platforms on developing countries.

Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

7. At its 1172nd plenary meeting, on 8 June 2018, the Board took note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/65(1)/7).

Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

8. At its 1172nd plenary meeting, on 8 June 2018, the Trade and Development Board adopted the decision on phase II of implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano, the revitalization of the

intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD, made available in the room as a non-paper (see chapter I, section B, above).

9. The President of the Board concluded the meeting by calling on delegates to maintain the constructive attitude and consensus-building spirit seen as discussions continued in the future.

Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2017–2018 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2018

10. At its 1170th plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report of the Acting Chair of the Advisory Body for 2017–2018.

11. Many delegates expressed appreciation to UNCTAD for the regional and short courses conducted on international economic issues, described as excellent. They commended the integrated treatment of trade and development in the regional courses and curricula that reflected the Sustainable Development Goals. Several delegates emphasized the knowledge course participants gained and its impact on the ability to undertake policy formulation. They also called on the secretariat to continue providing a platform for the short and regional courses.

12. Several delegates expressed their appreciation to host countries of the regional courses, as the courses enabled developing countries to better understand trends and design appropriate policies.

13. One delegate reported on the positive impact of regional courses, based on feedback from mid-government officials who participated in a course held in Mauritius in 2017. The regional courses were a strong tool for enhancing South–South cooperation.

14. The representative of Serbia thanked the 22 participants from 12 Eastern European economies who would join the thirty-ninth course his country would host in Belgrade, from 25 June to 6 July 2018. The representative of Colombia recalled that the country was a host for regional courses, under the multi-venue agreement, noting a course to be held in 2019, and the representative of Egypt noted that his country would host the course for the Arab region in 2018, 2020 and 2022.

15. In response to a question from one delegate on the shortening of regional courses, from three to two weeks, the Acting Chair clarified that the shortened course length had been decided under the previous Advisory Body to ensure course efficiency, with teaching also taking place over weekends. The curricula were thus more concise.

II. President's summary

A. Opening plenary meeting and general debate

Opening plenary meeting

16. Reflecting on his past year at the Trade and Development Board, the outgoing President (Republic of Moldova) noted that, in revitalizing the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery, the two main achievements were a dedicated high-level segment and a shift from September to June of the regular session of the Board. Holding the regular session in June would maximize the impact of the outcome of the Trade and Development Board on the regular session of the United Nations General Assembly, and feed into the broader multilateral process and annual events at United Nations Headquarters in New York. He had also observed a commitment to UNCTAD contributing to the broader development agenda, as embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals, and defending and strengthening multilateralism in the face of global uncertainty.

17. Despite awareness, beyond Geneva, of the efforts to revitalize the intergovernmental machinery, UNCTAD had to be proactive and responsive to needs, delivering outputs in a practical way. Incorporating specific activities that could feed into major development-related processes into the UNCTAD calendar of meetings could make contributions to the broader United Nations focused and relevant. Special sessions of the Trade and Development Board could generate tailored inputs to those processes, such as agreed outcomes or, at minimum, a President's summary of debates, that incorporated suggestions from subsidiary bodies of the Board, including the commissions and expert meetings.

18. The cyclical nature of the Trade and Development Board, a deliberative body and the highest policy body of the quadrennial Conference, meant that all intergovernmental meetings had something at stake and of interest for member States, as they eventually fed into the substantive preparatory process for the Conference, resulting in true consensus. He therefore supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that the consensus-building pillar should contain formal and informal elements to maintain a balance between timely negotiations and retaining a safe space for frank discussion of matters that required more consensus-building prior to negotiation. The Geneva Dialogues should remain the pinnacle of a safe space, complemented by other activities. The Prebisch Lectures needed to be regularized, possibly as the highlight of the Board's high-level segment.

19. The leadership of the Conference had to engage member States actively and be at the decision-making table, while providing the vision, purpose and added value of UNCTAD, practically, with concrete projects on the ground, especially in the least developed countries, and in the context of the larger ongoing United Nations reform agenda. UNCTAD thus needed to be adaptable and able to respond efficiently to current challenges. As a member-driven Conference that required the participation of the entire membership to drive the process, member States needed to find mutually beneficial solutions or a consensus acceptable to the entire constituency of UNCTAD. Finally, the institution of a President of the Trade and Development Board representing all members was an asset to the UNCTAD leadership and membership that needed proper support and engagement, with a view to achieving real progress.

20. The incoming President (Lebanon) of the Trade and Development Board noted crucial events as UNCTAD continued to evolve in the year ahead. Most immediately, the commitment to a comprehensive set of measures to revitalize the intergovernmental machinery would be formalized. The midterm review of the Nairobi Maafikiano would come in October 2018, to further strengthen implementation of the commitments of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the process of preparing for fifteenth session of the Conference would begin.

21. The Trade and Development Board would need to carefully measure the impact of the options considered, be wise by ensuring that a spirit of constructive and respectful engagement was fostered to promote true consensus-building, even on the most challenging of issues, and be decisive and act in a timely manner, including by having concrete and tangible results from intergovernmental meetings.

22. Small yet important steps could contribute to the broader work on development including in New York. He intended therefore to begin with the forthcoming high-level political forum on sustainable development, beginning in New York on 9 July 2018. As the UNCTAD contribution, he would write a letter to the President of the Economic and Social Council that was tailored to address directly and explicitly the agenda of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and would highlight the relevant substance of the current session of the Trade and Development Board.

23. The relevance of UNCTAD in the next years would partly depend on contributing to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. He would therefore serve as a facilitator and work closely with delegations to build bridges and help to find solutions, while also pushing when needed, especially when decisions needed to be taken.

24. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD expressed his appreciation to the outgoing President of the Board for not only retaining that role after his promotion to the level of minister, but also subsequently making an effort to give UNCTAD higher visibility, including in New York.

25. The sixty-fifth session, part I, of the Trade and Development Board marked the start of implementation of the revitalization of the intergovernmental machinery. Several members, Under-Secretaries-General and heads of United Nations agencies had noted their appreciation of the change and expected to work with UNCTAD. For example, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations would join the current discussions on 6 June 2018.

26. Given the transition of the Trade and Development Board, the cycle of production of key reports, such as the *Economic Development in Africa Report* and the *World Investment Report*, would require realignment to allow member States adequate time to review them prior to future sessions. The current session of the Board would discuss issues of critical importance to the United Nations and the development community, including implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano and United Nations reform, while considering the crisis in multilateralism and challenges of digitalization and increasing digital divide, illicit financial flows and risk of global debt default.

27. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in updating member States on the current situation of UNCTAD, recalled *From Actions to Results: Implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano in a Changing Environment*, which gave an overview of activities being undertaken, and noted that his remarks at the opening plenary meeting would serve to report on progress made, along with the *UNCTAD Annual Report 2017*. He presented brief examples of activities on making multilateralism work for trade and development, international issues related to multilateralism, trade issues, the digital economy, partnering with Africa in support of timely issues and financing for development. On management, in line with United Nations reform, improvement had been achieved on accountability under results-based management, and the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD had continued and would continue to inform member States of progress and respond to any concerns.

General debate
(Agenda item 3)

28. The general debate took place on 6 June 2018. The following speakers made statements: the representative of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries; the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the African Group; the representative of Japan, on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the representative of the Holy See; the representative of Estonia, on behalf of Group D; the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Arab Group; the representative of Bangladesh, on behalf of the least developed countries; the representative of Paraguay, on behalf of the landlocked developing countries; the representative of China; the representative of Brazil; the representative of Nigeria; the representative of Israel; the representative of Nepal; the representative of the United States of America; the representative of Trinidad and Tobago; the representative of Jamaica; the representative of the United Arab Emirates; the representative of Oman; the representative of Iraq; the representative of the State of Palestine; the representative of Saudi Arabia; the representative of the Russian Federation; the representative of Egypt; the representative of Morocco; the representative of Lebanon; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania; the representative of Togo; the representative of Lesotho; the representative of Canada; the representative of India; the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; the representative of the Republic of Korea; the representative of South Africa; the representative of Australia; the representative of Kenya; the representative of Tunisia; and the representative of Zimbabwe.

29. The representatives of some regional groups and one delegate expressed preference for earlier circulation of documentation of the Trade and Development Board to encourage greater participation of delegates.

30. Many delegates and one regional group pointed out that developing countries in particular had been defending multilateralism and its benefits and that UNCTAD needed to ensure developing countries were safeguarded from protectionist measures. Several delegates drew attention to a widening divide between developed and developing countries and called for more dialogue to address the issue. One delegate pointed out that developed countries continued to dominate the world market, leaving little for developing countries. Several delegates also emphasized the need to address illicit financial flows, which affected developing countries negatively, especially African countries, and hindered their ability to mobilize financial resources for development.

31. Many regional groups and delegates recognized the importance of UNCTAD work for sustainable development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The current session of the Trade and Development Board was an important step forward in implementing the UNCTAD mandate and creating outcomes to help foster growth and development for all, especially in developing countries and the least developed countries. Many regional groups and several delegates called for UNCTAD and the secretariat to follow up on decisions taken at previous quadrennial conferences, in the Nairobi Maafikiano and at the Trade and Development Board. They recognized that fulfilling those mandates was imperative for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and called for practical discussions and solutions. Some regional groups and many delegates also called for more commitment from member States to support UNCTAD and ensure fulfilment of the mandate for inclusive trade.

32. Several regional groups and many delegates took note of the participation in the Trade and Development Board of the newest member State of the Conference.

B. High-level segment

33. The high-level segment of the sixty-fifth session, part I, of the Trade and Development Board took place from 4 to 5 June 2018.

1. New ways in which the United Nations could address the crisis of multilateralism and trade and its development machinery and what the contribution of UNCTAD would be (Agenda item 2 (a))

34. The first panel of the high-level segment of the sixty-fifth session, part I, of the Trade and Development Board was composed of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, European Union Trade Commissioner and Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization. The panel led the discussion under the agenda item, moderated by the Chief Correspondent of the Reuters Geneva bureau.

35. One panellist stated that a trade war was not yet the case. Though a trade war could occur, it should be prevented. The multilateral trading system was, however, in crisis and thus should be revived by unblocking Doha Round negotiations of the World Trade Organization, especially on development issues, and addressing new issues. Flexibilities were needed for the members most in need. Also, appointments to the Appellate Body needed to be unblocked.

36. Another panellist suggested that the current crisis in the multilateral trading system was not the first nor the last. Finding a solution to such conflicts required continuous, constructive dialogue between parties in the multilateral setting of the World Trade Organization, rather than unilaterally.

37. A third panellist highlighted that trade was a cross-cutting policy tool that could be an engine for development. However, to be deployed for economic development, it needed to be made inclusive and accessible to all, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. Another panellist stressed compliance with existing multilateral rules. The key issue of a globalization that marginalized many people in all countries should be addressed by building up productive and infrastructure capacities with environmentally friendly systems, developing skills, putting in place social protection and making innovative and pragmatic use of new technologies.

39. One delegate noted that inequalities within and between country persisted despite trade. Most panellists further stated that multilateral cooperation was crucial, while one panellist said that the Sustainable Development Goals were the most comprehensive answer to that challenge. Most panellists and the representative of one regional group said that comprehensive policies were needed that went beyond market access, addressing issues such as competitiveness and distribution of gains from trade equitably.

40. Some panellists and several delegations underscored that UNCTAD was an important forum for non-binding discussion, leading to policy conclusions that could later be turned into multilateral trade rules and help unblock negotiations in the World Trade Organization. Some panellists and delegations emphasized the role of UNCTAD in global policy analysis to foster development on issues such as trade policy and trends, non-tariff measures, e-trade, investment, technology, gender and small and medium-sized enterprises. Some delegations also stated that UNCTAD had an important role in the ongoing reform of the United Nations development system.

2. Industrial policies and productive capacity policies for a digital economy
(Agenda item 2 (b))

41. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD made the opening remarks for the second panel discussion. The panel, with the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan as moderator, was composed of representatives of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, GE Digital Foundry Europe and the University of Geneva.

42. During the discussion, the Deputy Secretary-General and panellists underscored the rapid changes in digital technologies, the impacts they were likely to have on the economy and society, including production and consumption patterns, as well as international trade in goods and services, and the policy responses needed to manage them. The panellists and participants also addressed the array of challenges and urgency faced by developing country policymakers to maximize the benefits of new digital technologies and e-commerce.

43. One delegate suggested that countries might wish to draw inspiration from his country's new national e-commerce strategy, and thanked UNCTAD for the support in preparing it.

44. The representative of one regional group and some delegates highlighted the need to improve infrastructure, especially as half of the world's population remained offline.

45. The panellists and some participants discussed the winner-takes-all phenomenon in the digital economy, in terms of the limited ability of developing countries to compete with more developed countries, but also with regard to large global digital platforms.

46. One panellist noted that developing countries had benefited from some of the free services (such as translation) offered by those large digital platforms, while one delegate raised concerns about their market dominance and the value they obtained from developing countries in the form of users' data. The panellist and another participant discussed possible policy responses to the issue, such as local taxation, while another panellist and participant focused on whether to support alternative domestic or regional online platforms.

47. Some panellists, delegates and regional groups discussed the role of data in the digital economy and issues such as data protection. One delegate called for a framework to deal with

the issues raised. In response to a question from another delegate on the free flow of data, one panellist pointed out that an important distinction should be made between the question of the desirable level of ease of cross-border data flows and the question of the price at which data should be exchanged and how the value generated in data transactions should be shared. The expression "free data flows" was misleading in that sense.

48. Some delegations underscored the importance of UNCTAD as a space to discuss those issues, including at a forthcoming e-commerce week in Africa that UNCTAD was organizing.

49. Some regional groups and delegates expressed appreciation for UNCTAD work on the digital economy, including the analysis provided to member States and technical cooperation programmes such as the rapid assessments on electronic trade readiness.

50. One regional group called on UNCTAD to upscale its policy review mandate, including on e-commerce and the digital economy, and requested UNCTAD to strengthen its work on enhancing development gains from those areas.

3. Plugging financial leakages and mobilizing domestic and international resources to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals
(Agenda item 2 (c))

51. The third panel of the high-level segment consisted of the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations (New York), the Global Leader Fellow of Oxford University and former Minister of Planning and Evaluation of Public Policies of Togo, the Director of the Economic Development Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations and the Minister Plenipotentiary of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations (New York). A Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi moderated the discussion.

52. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD emphasized in her opening remarks that mobilizing resources, both domestic and international, was crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In that respect, plugging financial leakages and tackling illicit financial flows were key to meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reducing poverty and inequality in developing countries. One panellist and several delegates highlighted the lack of an agreed definition of illicit financial flows. Another panellist explained the difference between "illicit" and "illegal" financial flows, arguing that financial leakages could be licit or illicit, on the one hand, and legal or illegal, on the other. Some panellists and delegates pointed out that, in many cases, legal outflows, such as those associated with tax avoidance, constituted the bulk of outflows and should therefore be included as illicit financial flows.

53. Some panellists and delegates noted that, given the lack of a single agreed definition of illicit financial flows, it was a challenge to come up with a precise estimate or measure of illicit financial flows. Several panellists and delegates mentioned illicit financial flow figures ranging from $50 billion a year for Africa, to up to $500 billion a year for Asia. Some participants also noted ongoing work by UNCTAD and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Africa, to develop a common methodology to measure illicit financial flows. Overall, panellists and participants highlighted the significant impact of losses on government revenue and, therefore, potentially also on the resources available for the development agenda due to financial leakages, such as corruption, criminal activities, tax evasion and avoidance and, most recently, as noted by one panellist, the use of cryptocurrencies to transfer money from criminal activities. Some panellists stated that developing countries had made efforts to improve tax collection, but that they were confronted with significant challenges that hindered their resource mobilization efforts and they sometimes lacked the capacity to take action or had little say in international norm-setting by developed countries. In addition to building capacity in developing countries to strengthen tax administration and custom duty collection, some participants noted that the issue of illicit financial flows called for international cooperation at the global and regional levels, given the cross-border nature of those flows.

54. Several panellists and participants suggested different policy recommendations to reduce financial leakages, namely, setting up an intergovernmental body to combat illicit financial flows through improved financial regulation; improving fiscal transparency; reconsidering excessive fiscal and related incentives to attract foreign direct investment; considering a unitary approach to the taxation of multinational companies; and strengthening asset recovery.

4. Building resilience to multiple shocks affecting people and sustainable development (Agenda item 2 (d))

55. The last panel of the high-level segment comprised the Special Envoy for Climate Change of Poland; the Ambassador of Jamaica to the United Nations (New York); the Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the United Nations (Geneva); the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva; and the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. The panel discussion was moderated by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

56. Opening the discussion, the moderator noted that every country in the world today was confronted by economic, social and environmental shocks. The resulting impacts of those shocks could destroy years of development efforts. Increasing global recognition of the interactions of natural hazards and human-induced crises had led many countries to design and implement national resilience strategies to both limit damage and enhance recovery from those shocks.

57. One panellist emphasized that environmental shocks resulting from climate change could adversely impact personal property, infrastructure, health and agricultural production. The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provided financial support to developing countries seeking to prepare and implement measures to enhance their resilience to climate change. Most panellists stressed the need for small island States in the Caribbean and Pacific and developing countries in Africa to build resilience to climate change, as well as to economic and health-related shocks.

58. Several panellists argued that their efforts to strengthen resilience were directly related to making better progress in diversifying their economies, enhancing the production of value added products and integrating their economies into global value chains. One panellist noted that African countries that had expected progress to occur after opening their economies years ago were now engaged in developing a stronger and more self-sufficient regional economy through the African Continental Free Trade Area. Another panellist argued that high debt burdens prevented many developing countries from allocating more financial resources to develop the national infrastructure needed to both bolster trade and reduce their vulnerability to environmental shocks. Another panellist proposed that the increased use of debt for nature swaps by multilateral finance institutions could significantly address the challenge of financing resilience measures, particularly those related to climate change, including in the energy and transport sectors.

59. Some delegates argued that a fairer, more equitable and inclusive multilateral trading system was needed to better support the national efforts of developing countries to build their resilience to shocks. The representative of one regional group stressed that building resilience was an ongoing process, and that a people-centred approach was important when designing and implementing resilience strategies. Another delegate emphasized that developing countries were the most vulnerable to environmental shocks and that financial support was needed for them to bolster their resilience to environmental shocks.

C. Regular segment

60. The regular segment of the sixty-fifth session, part I, of the Trade and Development Board took place from 6 to 8 and 25 and 26 June 2018.

1. Annual report of the Secretary-General
(Agenda item 4)

61. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD noted that she was presenting the agenda item on behalf of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, who had wished to be present but was regrettably undertaking an official mission. She was confident that she would be able to respond to any questions from delegations. Drawing on the statement of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD delivered in relation to the agenda item,[1] the Deputy Secretary-General highlighted areas where UNCTAD had made significant contributions, including work to support the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, process of graduation of the least developed countries, financing for economic development and bridging the digital divide.

62. The representatives of some regional groups and some delegates expressed concern that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD was not present for discussion of the agenda item. Some delegates praised the annual report of the Secretary-General, while requesting more information on results-based management, budget and consensus-building. One regional group requested clarification on the significant amount of technical cooperation expenditures focused on Sustainable Development Goal 9. The Deputy Secretary-General responded that the secretariat had tried to take the requests of all stakeholders into consideration in preparing the annual report. Expenditures on Sustainable Development Goal 9 were primarily extrabudgetary resources committed to the Automated System for Customs Data programme, the largest technical cooperation programme of UNCTAD. She suggested that delegates should read the statement in relation to the agenda item and the UNCTAD Annual Report 2017, which was structured to report on UNCTAD activities on the basis of the Sustainable Development Goals and included examples of the impact UNCTAD work had directly on communities in developing countries.

2. Economic development in Africa
(Agenda item 5)

63. The representatives of many regional groups and many delegates expressed their appreciation for the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2018: Migration and Structural Transformation*, noting its timeliness given the visibility of migration on the global agenda.

64. Several regional groups and several delegates commended the report's focus and analysis of the contribution of intra-African migration to structural transformation, noting the novel and innovative approach. Some regional groups highlighted that the report's recommendations on aligning migration, trade and investment policies, the need for investment in infrastructure and energy to support commodities value chains development and the support of the international community in establishing mechanisms to ensure migration could contribute to Africa's structural transformation. Another regional group noted that the report's focus on migration and structural transformation and its practical recommendations were aligned with the UNCTAD mandate.

65. Several delegations highlighted the importance of labour migration. The removal of preferences for Moroccan nationals and the abolition of work permit fees for member States of the East African Community were good practices in facilitating labour migration.

66. Several regional groups and several delegates noted the importance of remittances for African economies. Some delegations said that the high cost of money transfer fees limited remittances' potential to contribute to Africa's development.

[1] Delivered by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 4 June 2018 at the opening plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session, part I, of the Trade and Development Board. Copies of the statement were distributed in the conference room.

67. Some regional groups and some delegates highlighted migration's contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while several delegations commended the report's focus on gender.

68. Some regional groups and some delegates welcomed the adoption of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The Single African Air Transport Market and the Protocol on the Free Movement of People were critical to supporting migration objectives.

69. Several delegations acknowledged the cross-cutting nature and complexity of migration and migration policy. One regional group noted the need for efforts to situate migration policies within regional frameworks.

70. Another regional group noted that the report was an important contribution to consultations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and provided evidence for supporting a development pillar under the Global Compact. The UNCTAD secretariat emphasized the need for collective action on migration management and support for a development pillar under the Global Compact. UNCTAD would hold a high-level event on migration during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018.

3. Technology and innovation as effective means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

(Agenda item 6)

71. Under the agenda item, the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD made opening remarks at the meeting.

72. The Director of the UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics then made a presentation, and a panel of two experts shared insights on the opportunities for and challenges of harnessing frontier technologies for sustainable development. The discussion highlighted the role of frontier technologies in helping to address sustainable development objectives and underlined deficiencies in technological capabilities, particularly in developing countries and the least developed countries, as a major obstacle in harnessing the potential of technology. The panel consisted of the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Transformative Technologies and Founder of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Institute for Globally Transformative Technologies, and the Director of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of Ghana.

73. The representatives of many regional groups and many delegates commended UNCTAD on the quality and relevance of the *Technology and Innovation Report 2018: Harnessing Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development*. One regional group noted that the report was of interest for all member States. Some delegations expressed satisfaction with discussing technology in the context of UNCTAD work and suggested inclusion of the topic in forthcoming agendas of the Trade and Development Board.

74. One regional group indicated that there was a need to strike a balance regarding investment in frontier technologies for developing countries, to ensure that they became a vehicle for inclusive growth and sustainable development. One delegate suggested that the least developed countries required a strategy for adopting frontier technologies. Another delegate emphasized the importance of actions to support developing countries to avoid making existing technological divides worse.

75. Several delegates highlighted the importance of technology transfer as a fundamental building block for increasing capacity in science, technology and innovation and a prerequisite to harnessing the full potential of frontier technologies. Some delegations suggested that fostering greater entrepreneurial environment within national borders, including for women, was required to ensure access to technologies was effective and sustainable.

76. Some delegations noted the need for ethical, economic and social challenges caused by rapid technological change to be considered by all relevant stakeholders and to provide substance in

the form of national and regional strategies. Some delegates emphasized that, in addition to aid, private investment should also constitute a means of resource mobilization to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries

(Agenda item 7)

77. Under the agenda item, the Director of the UNCTAD Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes highlighted growing awareness and political will to address the challenges of landlocked developing countries. He expressed concern that the weak economic performance of landlocked developing countries since the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 put their ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at risk. The UNCTAD secretariat then provided an overview of its activities in support of landlocked developing countries.

78. The representatives of several regional groups and some delegates noted the continuing challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, and the need for greater efforts in trade and transport facilitation, building productive capacities and achieving structural transformation. One regional group expressed concern at the recent slowdown in growth of landlocked developing countries, while another regional group noted the declining share of official development assistance and foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries. Another regional group highlighted its assistance measures for landlocked developing countries, through official development assistance and market access, and emphasized the importance of improved cooperation to strengthen regional value chains in landlocked developing countries. The representative of another regional group noted that the work of UNCTAD on developing a productive capacities index was fundamental for landlocked developing countries. He requested the secretariat to also provide more disaggregated data on assistance delivered only to landlocked developing countries. One delegate requested UNCTAD to take into account the challenges facing transit countries in its work on transport facilitation. Another delegate requested UNCTAD to strengthen its programme on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

79. Several regional groups and some delegates expressed appreciation for the work of UNCTAD in support of the landlocked developing countries and the report presented. Some regional groups and one delegate called on UNCTAD to provide substantive support to the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action. Several regional groups and one delegate further called on member States to provide greater support to the work of UNCTAD on landlocked developing countries. One regional group and one delegate requested that, within UNCTAD, the Landlocked Developing Countries Section be strengthened, through greater resources allocation. Furthermore, the representative of the regional group called for enhanced interdivisional cooperation on landlocked developing countries. Another delegate inquired about the resources currently allocated to landlocked developing countries in UNCTAD, and how much was required for UNCTAD to be fully enabled to implement its mandate on landlocked developing countries. The UNCTAD secretariat took note of the request for further information on resources, agreeing on the importance of the issue, which would be discussed during an appropriate forum.

5. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

(Agenda item 9)

80. In his opening remarks, the Director of the UNCTAD Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes provided an overview of the economic situation of the least developed countries. The global economic environment for the least developed countries had deteriorated and become increasingly challenging. The economic performance of the least developed countries could be significantly improved by building their economic resilience to

external shocks, including by reorienting domestic policies and rebalancing international support measures to focus on enhancing productive capacities, diversification and inclusive structural transformation. The Directed presented the case of the European Union–UNCTAD programme of support for Angola as a model of interdivisional cooperation for the benefit of the least developed countries. He noted that a shift from project-based financing to more integrated programme-based support would have direct and long-term advantages in supporting the least developed countries. The UNCTAD secretariat then presented the report on its contribution to implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action).

81. The representatives of many regional groups expressed appreciation for the activities conducted by UNCTAD in the context of implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action. Several regional groups highlighted the challenges in implementation to achieving the targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action. They cited, for instance, a shortfall in achieving the graduation target, reaching economic diversification, doubling the share of least developed country exports and increasing the participation of the least developed countries in value chains. Many regional groups stressed the importance of improving support to the least developed countries to achieve structural transformation and increase productive capacity. One regional group emphasized that sustainable development was achieved only through economic diversification and structural transformation. Another regional group recognized the spillover effects that productive capacity had on the economy. Several regional groups pointed out that structural transformation and productive capacity were paramount for the least developed countries to move beyond graduation. One regional group encouraged UNCTAD to continue cooperating with other agencies and welcomed UNCTAD efforts in seeking funds to implement Istanbul Programme of Action. The representative of another regional group emphasized its support for the least developed countries, citing examples (official development assistance, trade facilitation, investment and the Angola project). He further suggested that future sessions of the Trade and Development Board could consider *The Least Developed Countries Report* and activities in support of the least developed countries under a single agenda item.

6. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

(Agenda item 10)

82. The President of the Trade and Development Board provided background information on the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and implementation of phase II of the revitalization of the intergovernmental machinery, under the mandate of the Nairobi Maafikiano. The Facilitator of the Consultative Group of the Whole on the phase II process thanked delegates for their commitment throughout the process to helping UNCTAD refocus its mission and responsibility for implementing the Nairobi Maafikiano to support developing nations in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

83. During the Board's consideration of a draft decision, entitled "Revitalization of the existing intergovernmental machinery", on the agenda item, one delegation reiterated that, going beyond phase II, member States could continue to look at how to improve deliberations and how they contributed to solving development challenges.

84. Another delegation noted that the Nairobi Maafikiano had set goals for the forthcoming two years and expressed readiness to work continuously with the secretariat to "make UNCTAD great again".

85. Some delegations were pleased with the draft decisions document and hoped further ideas could be discussed in the next quadrennial conference. One delegate said that delegations should not wait until the next conference to discuss the intergovernmental machinery, but rather should strive to talk as soon as they had the opportunity.

7. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (Agenda item 11)

86. Under the agenda item, a high-level panel, comprising the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kenya Power Lighting Company and the Co-Founder of Enekio (France), discussed transformational energy access in the least developed countries.

87. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in his opening remarks, highlighted that energy was an enabler of structural transformation. Realizing the ambitions of Sustainable Development Goal 7 required identification of actionable tasks and measurable results for investment, access and provision of better quality. There was a widening electricity divide between the least developed countries and other developing/developed economies, which underscored that progress in the least developed countries would largely determine whether Goal 7 would be achieved or not.

88. The first panellist stated that Sustainable Development Goal 7 was the "golden thread" that linked other Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Paris Agreement. She noted the substantial gap in financing transformational energy access, urging the international community to continue deliberating on financing for sustainable development. She also called for a strengthening of technology transfer to the least developed countries, including through more effective international support measures.

89. The next panellist, recalling a ministerial statement on the reform of fossil fuel subsidies at the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, called for renewing international efforts to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and redirect resources towards renewable energy. Based on the experience of the Republic of Moldova, he highlighted the importance of market-driven measures to spur transition towards cleaner energy sources and greater energy efficiency.

90. The next panellist highlighted relevant lessons for the least developed countries, based on the experience of Kenya. He stressed the importance of a diversified power generation mix and of decentralized power generation. He highlighted the objectives of the country's affirmative action for energy access, arguing that aid and public resources remained critical for subsidizing last-kilometre grid connection. Finally, he called for better harnessing of South–South cooperation and regional power pools.

91. The last panellist stated that different actors used distinct strategies to deliver significant economic impact in energy access. Drawing on the experience in rural Senegal of the company Enekio, he highlighted the importance of simultaneously acting on energy supply and demand, engaging local communities. Well-designed mini-grids were capable of providing electricity at the same price as in Dakar, achieving profitability also in remote areas. The panellist cautioned, however, that guarantees from regional development banks played a key role.

92. The representative of one regional group and several delegates commended UNCTAD for its work on transformational energy access, arguing that the work would be an important contribution to the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development. They concurred with the call for strengthening measures to promote technology transfer. Another regional group noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should not be implemented selectively. The least developed countries could also do more to mobilize domestic resources. Some panellists noted that, while the Sustainable Development Goals constituted a single framework, energy still played a fundamental role in enabling development and powering structural transformation.

93. One panellist noted that the complexity of Sustainable Development Goal 7 demonstrated the need for the ongoing reform of the United Nations development system to meet the

ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. In response to a request for clarification by one delegate, she said there would be detailed briefings with delegations and country teams, while the precise working of a hybrid funding mechanism would require consideration.

III. Procedural and related matters

A. Opening of the session

94. The sixty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board was opened on 4 June 2018, by Mr. Tudor Ulianovschi (Republic of Moldova), outgoing President of the Board at its sixty-fourth session.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1 (a))

95. At its 1164th (opening) plenary meeting, on 4 June 2018, the Board elected Mr. Salim Baddoura (Lebanon) President of the Board at its sixty-fifth session.

96. The Board undertook the election of officers to serve on the Bureau of the Board at its sixty-fifth session by electing the Vice-Presidents during the 1164th (opening) plenary meeting. Pending nominations would be addressed afterwards. Accordingly, the elected Bureau was as follows:

President:	Mr. Salim Baddoura (Lebanon)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Mr. Rajiv K. Chander (India) Mr. Walid Doudech (Tunisia) Mr. Ramses Joseph Cleland (Ghana) Mr. Uwe Petry (Germany) Mr. Ryosuke Kuwana (Japan) Mr. Daniel Carl (United States of America) Mr. Taavo Lumiste (Estonia)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Julie Emond (Canada)

97. One delegate noted that, on the basis of reciprocity, there could not be consensus on nominations from her regional group in relation to candidates from the group of countries that signed the Lima Declaration of 8 August 2017.

98. Following established practice, the Board agreed that the coordinators of regional groups and other recognized groups of UNCTAD would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau of the Board.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

(Agenda item 1 (b))

99. At its 1164th (opening) plenary meeting, the Board adopted the provisional agenda for the session, as contained in document TD/B/65(1)/1, but amended to reflect postponement of the discussion on the original item 7, on investment for development, until part II of the sixty-fifth session, to be held in October 2018 (see annex I).[2]

100. The Board agreed that the programme for the session would be adjusted accordingly and that the general debate would take place on 6 June 2018.

[2] The relevant agenda items have been renumbered to reflect this change.

D. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

(Agenda item 12)

Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2017–2018 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2018

101. At its 1170th plenary meeting, the Board elected members of the Advisory Body for a period of one year, from June 2018 to June 2019, as follows: Mr. Stephen N. Karau (Kenya); Mr. Christopher Onyanga Aparr (Uganda); Ms. Margret Kaemba (Zambia); Mr. Mr. Abdulla Nasser al Rahbi (Oman); Mr. Tahir Hussain Andrabi (Pakistan); Mr. Mr. Diego Aulestia (Ecuador); Mr. Vagif Sadiqov (Azerbaijan); Mr. Michal Kaplan (Czechia); and Ms. Julie Emond (Canada).

102. The Board also agreed that the President of the Board would chair the Advisory Body for the same period.

Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board

103. There were no new applications before the Board for its consideration. A list of the 115 intergovernmental bodies currently in status with UNCTAD is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/11.

Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board

104. At its 1170th plenary meeting, the Board approved five new applications, one from the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (TD/B/65(1)/R.1), to be granted observer status with UNCTAD under the special category, and four from the European Business Council for Africa and the Mediterranean (TD/B/65(1)/R.2), Stichting Fair Trade Advocacy Office (TD/B/65(1)/R.3), Terrawatt Initiative (TD/B/65(1)/R.4) and Trade and Economic Development Council (TD/B/65(1)/R.5), to be granted observer status with UNCTAD under the general category.[3]

Review of the calendar of meetings

105. At its 1174th (closing) plenary meeting, the Board approved the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2018, with the date for the Trade and Development Commission changed to 12–16 November 2018.[4]

Membership of the Working Party

106. The membership of the Working Party, approved by the Board at its sixty-fourth session, remains in place as follows: Algeria, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Russian Federation, Uganda and United States of America.

Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

107. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board reviewed the list of States members of UNCTAD (TD/B/INF.235). The membership list would be updated to reflect the change in

[3] The updated list will be issued as document TD/B/NGO/LIST/23.

[4] The official calendar will be issued as document TD/B/INF.240.

membership of the Conference and to reflect an official change in country name. The updated membership list would be issued as document TD/B/INF.239.

Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

108. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board was informed that the actions taken at its sixty-fifth session, part I, had no additional financial implications.

E. Adoption of the report on credentials

(Agenda item 1 (c))

109. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board adopted the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives participating in the sixty-fifth session, part I, of the Board, as contained in document TD/B/65(1)/L.2.

F. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 1 (d))

110. At its closing plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board also decided to refer consideration of the provisional agenda for its sixty-sixth session to the sixty-fifth session, part II, of the Board, in October 2018.

G. Provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh executive session of the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 13)

111. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board approved the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh executive session, to be held in December 2018, as contained in a non-paper made available in the room (annex II).

H. Other business

(Agenda item 14)

112. At the 1174th (closing) plenary meeting of the Trade and Development Board, the President presented four issues for consideration.

113. The Board approved the provisional agenda and a change in date, to 12–16 November 2018, for the tenth session of the Trade and Development Commission, as contained in a non-paper made available in the room (annex III).[5]

114. The Board also approved the topic and guiding questions for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy (annex IV).

115. The Board approved the provisional agenda for its sixty-fifth session, part II, to be held from 1 to 4 October 2018, as contained in a non-paper made available in the room (annex V).

116. The Board approved the provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, to be held on 3–7 December 2018 (annex VI).

[5] See also paragraph 105, above.

I. Adoption of the report

(Agenda item 15)

117. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board adopted its report as contained in documents TD/B/65(1)/L.1 and Add.1 to Add. 9, and the forthcoming Add.10 on agenda item 5 and the longer summary on the opening plenary and agenda item 3. The report would contain the agreed conclusions on item 5, provisional agendas and topics and guiding questions approved by the Board, as well as reflect the proceedings of the closing plenary meeting and include procedural and related matters. The Board further authorized the Rapporteur, under the authority of the President, to finalize the report to the General Assembly as appropriate, taking into account the proceedings of the closing plenary.

Annex I

Agenda for the sixty-fifth session, part I, of the Trade and Development Board

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Election of officers

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials

   (d) Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board

2. High-level segment:

   (a) New ways in which the United Nations could address the crisis of multilateralism and trade and its development machinery and what the contribution of UNCTAD would be

   (b) Industrial policies and productive capacity policies for a digital economy

   (c) Plugging financial leakages and mobilizing domestic and international resources to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals

   (d) Building resilience to multiple shocks affecting people and sustainable development

3. General debate

4. Annual report of the Secretary-General

5. Economic development in Africa

6. Technology and innovation as effective means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

7. Activities of UNCTAD in support of small island developing States and in support of landlocked developing countries

8. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

9. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

10. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

11. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

12. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2017–2018 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2018

   (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

(c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

(e) Membership of the Working Party

(f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

13. Provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh executive session of the Trade and Development Board

14. Other business

15. Adoption of the report

Annex II

Provisional agenda of the sixty-seventh executive session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2018: Entrepreneurship for Structural Transformation – Beyond Business as Usual*

3. Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh sessions

4. Report of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission

5. Report of the Trade and Development Commission

6. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development

7. Other business

8. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-seventh executive session

Annex III

Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Trade and Development Commission

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Reports of expert meetings
   - (a) Reports of the multi-year and single-year expert meetings:
     - (i) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development
     - (ii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development
     - (iii) Multi-year Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Enabling Economic Environment at All Levels in Support of Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and the Promotion of Economic Integration and Cooperation
   - (b) Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
   - (c) Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection Law and Policy
4. Trade, multilateral cooperation and sustainable development
5. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars
6. Other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

Annex IV

Topic and guiding questions for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on E-commerce and the Digital Economy

Topic

The value and role of data in electronic commerce (e-commerce) and the digital economy and its implications for inclusive trade and development

Guiding questions

- What are the role and value of data in e-commerce and the digital economy in the context of inclusive trade and development?
- What are the key opportunities and challenges associated with managing and regulating data and data flows?
- What are the public policies, regulations and institutional arrangements in different countries and regions for harnessing and protecting data related to e-commerce and the digital economy, and bridging the digital divides including between and within countries and relating to youth, rural economy, microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises and gender?
- How could developing countries build capacities including skills to use new and emerging technologies such as big data analytics and artificial intelligence?

Annex V

Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session, part II, of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
2. Evaluation and review of UNCTAD implementation of the quadrennial conference outcome
3. Interdependence and development strategies in a globalized world
4. Economic development in Africa
5. Investment for development
6. Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
7. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Trade and Development Board
8. Other business
9. Adoption of the report

Annex VI

Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Reports of expert meetings
   (a) Report of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development
   (b) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting
4. Investment and entrepreneurship for development
5. Science, technology and innovation for enterprise development
6. Progress report on promoting and strengthening synergies among the three pillars
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board

Annex VII

Attendance*

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Albania
Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Canada
China
Colombia
Congo
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechia
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Estonia
Ethiopia
Finland
Gabon
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libya
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Sierra Leone
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates

* This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see TD/B/65(1)/INF.1.

Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

2. The following members of the Conference attended the session:

Bahamas
Brunei Darussalam
Niger
Holy See
State of Palestine

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

African Union
African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
European Union
League of Arab States
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
South Centre
West African Economic and Monetary Union

4. The following United Nations organs, bodies and programmes were represented at the session:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
International Trade Centre

5. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Trade Organization

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General category

Association Africa 21
Center for Economic and Policy Research
Engineers of the World
International Network for Standardization of Higher Education Degrees
Third World Network